

THE WELSH SOCIETY OF VANCOUVER

Gymdeithas Gymraeg Vancouver

Cambrian News

Phwefror
2010

February
2010

Society Newsletter - Fylchgrawn y Gymdeithas



A Seremoni Gyntaf - The First Ceremony

CAMBRIAN HALL, 215 East 17th Ave, Vancouver B.C. V5V 1A6
www.welshsociety.com

Forthcoming Events

Please note there no traffic or parking restrictions due to the Olympics in the vicinity of the Hall.

Sunday February 14th at 11:00 am **Bilingual Church Service** followed by a Tê Bach.

Monday February 15th. at 10:30am **Welsh Speaking Group cancelled**

Monday Feb. 22nd from 10:00 am till 3:30 pm **Work Party Day** Volunteers welcome; lunch will be provided.

Saturday February 27th.

St. David's Day Dinner

Our annual St. David's Day Dinner will be held in the Cambrian Hall. Doors will open at 6 pm and dinner will be served at 7 pm.

The event will be catered by Jordans: menu to include,

Rolls and butter, Leek Potato Soup
Terriyaki Chicken, Roast Beef (Prime Rib)
Salmon Filets

Nugget potatoes, Hot vegetables
Assorted squares, Fresh Fruit Plate
Coffee and Tea

Tickets from Pat Morris (604 536-9556).

Please reserve early.

Monday March 1st. **St. David's Day**

Our traditional St. David's Day Open House and Celebration will be held in the Lower Hall starting at 7.30 pm. Cawl Cennin will be served. Come along and join in the fun.

Wednesday March 3rd. at 7:30 pm

Executive Meeting

Sunday March 14th at 10:00 am – **Welsh Lessons** in the Upper Hall prior to the Bilingual Service. Call Elizabeth (604 408-8804) for details.

Sunday March 14th at 11:00 am – **Bilingual Church Service** followed by a Tê Bach.

Monday March 15th. at 10:30am
Welsh Speaking Group

Monday March 22nd. from 10:00 am till 3:30 pm. **Work Party Day** Volunteers welcome; lunch will be provided.

Saturday March 27th. at 7:30 **Pub Trivia Night at the Red Dragon**

Always a lot of fun, this will be our fourth such event organized by Eifion Williams. A \$10 donation will give you a delicious light supper, mouth watering dessert and a raffle ticket.

Saturday April 10th. **Grand Spring Sale**

The stalls will include,

- Home made Welsh baking and preserves
- Collectibles
- Old china
- Books and Jewelry

More details will follow. Please consider how you would like to contribute to the sale. Pick-up can be arranged if necessary.

Contact Gillian (604 742-1378) or Pat (604 536-9556).

A letter to our President:

Dear Mr. Morris,

My family and I would like to thank all members of the Welsh Society for their concern and support during Tecwyn's illness. We were so pleased at how many came to pay their last respects at his funeral.

We would also like to thank Mr. John Cann and Mr. John Pritchard for their kind words at the Welsh Service last Sunday, which was dedicated to Tecwyn. We were most touched by the kindness of all and especially by singing the hymns which Tecwyn himself had chosen.

We will miss him forever, but we are sustained by the goodness of so many.

Thank you all,

Deirdre Roberts and Family

Dear Member,

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Mark and as the new Membership Secretary for 2010 I am writing to you as a gentle reminder that membership fees for 2010 are now due.

As a membership incentive, the executive felt it was necessary to re-institute a differential in the cost of tickets for the St David's Day Dinner, the Anniversary Dinner and the Christmas Dinner. As you will already be aware, the St David's Day dinner will be held on the 27th February. The cost for 2010 members will be \$37 whilst non-members will pay \$42. All membership forms that I receive up to and including the 27th February will be eligible to pay the members cost, which means that you can pay your fees on the night! As this \$5 differential will also be included for the Anniversary and Christmas dinners, by becoming a member you will be entitled to a total saving of \$15 for the three main annual events.

Please also note that there will be **no parking restrictions around the hall during the Olympics.**

I hope that I do not have to remind you that the Vancouver Welsh Society is the only one of its kind in North America that owns its own hall, and with that comes significant associated costs. Please help us to keep the wonderful heritage and tradition that has been nurtured and cherished over the last century so that this society and facility can be available to future Welsh Society members for years to come.

Best Regards,
Mark Jones

Ancestor Search

Dr David LLOYD OWEN is visiting during the Olympics and is searching for information about his grandfather who was estranged from his family after coming to Canada. The following biographical information was compiled by his cousin, Jean Wharton.

Owen Humphrey Owen

Born 10/23/1891 in Llanllyfni to Owen Owen Owens (Coal Merchant, b. 1866 Llanllyfni) and Winifred Owens (b. Williams 1866 Caernarvon).

Married 04/04/1917 in Toxteth, Liverpool to Enid Maud Davies b. 10/12/1892 daughter of Canon John Davies (1861-1948) and Edith Anne Ethelston (1861-1924).

WW1 service: Private, Royal Welch Fusiliers - saw action in France.

Children: Winifred Joan (1915-1966 - Jean's mother), Ethelston John Charles (1920-2005 - my father), David Robert Ethelstone (08/14/1921-08/31/1921).

Emigrated 05/20/1927 on M.S. Montcalm (Canadian Pacific Line) from Liverpool to Quebec or Montreal, settling in Vancouver. Occupation in Canada: Lumberjack, then Auto Mechanic (until 1933).

Last known address: 1185 Davie Street.

Died 12/02/1936 in Vancouver General Hospital after long illness (cancer).

Attending physician (07/13/1936-12/02/1936): Dr. J.A. Wright.

Registration of Death by John Ellis Griffiths (718 Granville Street), friend.

Interred in Mountain View Cemetery (undertakers Center & Hanna Ltd).

Any information from your members will be very much appreciated by Jean and me! Best regards, David
(Best Western Coquitlam
319 North Road
Coquitlam, BC V3K 3V8)

Swyddi Au Pair

Dear Sir/Madam,

My name is Eleri Anona Watson, I'm 18 years old and I'm currently working in Brussels as an au pair for a welsh family during my gap-year. I am looking for a position as an au pair during the summer of 2010 before I leave for university, and I was wondering if anyone within the society was looking for a welsh au pair for the period between 20/08 and 30/09? I attended both welsh primary and secondary schools in Swansea, and I speak welsh as a first language. I have also studied french to A-level standard and have continued my study of the language whilst in Brussels, beginning my studies at the Universite Libre de Bruxelles around 8 months ago.

If anyone is interested I can of course send a C.V and references. My email address is welsheleri@hotmail.co.uk.

Thank you for your help,

Eleri Anona Watson

(Note: More recent correspondence indicates Eleri can be available if required from the 5th of July.)

First Ceremony

The photo on the front page is taken from the Autumn-Winter issue of *Yr Enfys* and is reproduced with the kind permission of its editor, Glyn Evans. It was made available by T. Elwyn Griffiths, the *Undeb Cymru a'r Byd* honorary president and documents the first ever ceremony welcoming the overseas Welsh to the National Eisteddfod at the 1948 Bridgend Eisteddfod. This photo is of special significance to our society since the Leader on that historic occasion was 86 year old Thomas Edwards of Vancouver who is pictured standing in front of the Eisteddfod Chair donated by the Vancouver Cambrian Society. Seated next to him are two notable figures; the poet Elfed, the first president of

Undeb y Cymru ar Wasgar and the Archdruid Cyman.

As you are doubtless aware the welcoming ceremony was discontinued following the Faenol Eisteddfod in 2005; a decision many considered regrettable. Professor Hywel Teifi Edwards, speaking on BBC Radio Cymru during the Bala Eisteddfod called for its reinstatement. Speaking in Welsh he said, "For me, the Eisteddfod exists to celebrate people's commitment and loyalty to Welsh culture."

The VVWC turns 30

The Vancouver Welsh Men's Choir was founded in January 1980. Five current members, Gwyn Evans, David Gilder, Brian Kerr, John Roper and Alan Tucker have been with the choir since 1980. Gwyn and David attended the first rehearsal and were instrumental in founding the choir. Congratulations!

Saint Dwynwen Celebrations

St. Dwynwen's Day happens to coincide with Robbie Burns Day so "Iechyd Da Robbie Burns!" Elizabeth Williams Wallace researched Welsh Whisky and sends this report.

Although it was Robbie Burns Day on Jan 25th, the Scots weren't celebrating alone in The Cascade Room on Main Street, Vancouver. Joining the whisky tasting event was the representative from the only Welsh distillery in Wales: Penderyn. Drawing its water from deep in the Brecon Beacons, the distillery's single malt recently won the top prize in an international competition in Victoria. The patriotic among us might like to taste it and rate it ourselves!

Nigel Pike, co-owner of The Cascade who describes himself as a proud Welshman, invited Penderyn to the all-celtic evening, along with Scottish and Irish whisky

producers. He also arranged for the Cambrian singers to perform a selection of Welsh favourites, and their traditional costumes were a colourful addition to the scene. Nigel will be joining our Cymdeithas this year and let's hope he brings with him many more ideas for future events. A man who was courageous enough to wear a red Cymru rugby shirt to a Robbie Burns celebration deserves a warm welcome!

On Friday evening Jan 29th our society held its own St. Dwynwen celebration. David Llewelyn Williams opened the evening by recounting her history and read the Prayer to St. Dwynwen. Nerys Haqq, accompanied by Lucy Sorensen, then sang the classic folk song *Bugail Aberdyfi* to set the mood for the evening before we paused for supper. Eifion Williams had prepared a most interesting quiz consisting of 20 questions on the general topic of Love and after supper he enlightened us with the answers. Who would have guessed that the flower called 'stinking billy' by the Scots was called Sweet William! On the other hand we all knew Prince Charles' response to a television interviewer's query as to whether he was in love with Diana.

The evening proceeded with community singing in both Welsh and English translations of three well known love songs; *Myfanwy*, *Bugeilio'r Gwenith Gwyn* and *Merch y Melinydd* accompanied by Lucy. Audience participation followed with humorous contributions by Elizabeth Murray and by Don Murray; the Orpheus Trio of Gareth Pugh, Alcwyn Rogers and Tim Savage sang *The Rose*; Don and Elizabeth acted out an excerpt from *Under Milk Wood*; Wyn Roberts gave us his amusing poetry compositions and your editor read two poems once audience contributions had ceased.

Thanks are due to all the participants, to Eifion Williams and Mary Lewis for looking after the bar and to the Social Committee both for the evening and for the supper.

Rugby Canada makes historic deal with Welsh

(Canwest News Service Dec 7, 2009)

Canadian rugby is getting a huge boost, thanks to an agreement with the Welsh Rugby Union. Ten of Canada's premiere domestic players will have an opportunity to play a four-month exhibition schedule in North Wales with a team of Welsh professional players.

"Providing elite competition and training environments for our best players has always been a goal for Rugby Canada," Rugby Canada chief executive officer Graham Brown said in a statement. "The North Wales project is one part of our development program and a significant partnership for Rugby Canada." Former Wales defence coach Clive Griffiths will serve as head coach of the North Wales development side. Parc Eirias in Colwyn Bay has been chosen as the home ground of the Gogledd Cymru side and the facility will include a centre of sporting excellence.

"The inclusion of 10 Canadian players in the squad will help to raise the standards and profile of the North Wales side on and off the field and help to give North Wales a competitive, semi-professional side almost immediately," said Joe Lydon, Welsh Rugby Union head of rugby development and performance. Nine exhibitions have been confirmed, beginning with a Leicester Tigers Development XV on Jan. 15.

Now that Cardiff and Swansea have very competitive Soccer teams, maybe it's time for Rugby to develop talent in the North!

Kenneth Owens

(April 25, 1915 – January 24, 2010)

West Point Grey United Church was filled on the afternoon of February 5th at a service to celebrate the life of Kenneth Campbell Richards Owens. Both the Vancouver Welsh Society and the West Point Grey United Church community were well represented.



Reverend Val Taylor conducted the service which had many features reminiscent of our own Church Services. The hymns could be sung in English or Welsh and the scripture readings were given in both languages; the Welsh by John Pritchard, Alwyn Rogers and Jane Byrne. A moving tribute to Ken by his cousin David McLean, emphasizing the impact Ken's demonstrated core values had on his siblings and his relatives, was read by his son Jason McLean. Lynn Owens-Whalen reviewed her father's life, in part quoting from his own recollections and accompanied by a visual presentation. The reception which followed the service was hosted by our society and the West Point Grey Church members. It was a fitting tribute to Ken.

Ken grew up in South Vancouver and attended Sir Sanford Fleming School. As a child he suffered a myriad of illnesses

and was not expected to survive, but he did! He had warm memories of trips to Kitsilano Beach and 3rd Beach. As a teenager, Ken discovered Grouse Mountain and found many friends with whom he enjoyed hiking and skiing for many years. A member of the Tyee Ski Club, he competed in many Downhill, Slalom and Ski Jumping competitions throughout southern B.C. and Washington State. Ken also discovered the love of his life, Phyllis Morgan, on Grouse Mountain as they both had cabins there. He continued his skiing at Sun Valley, in Europe and at Whistler until the age of 81 when a heart attack curtailed his passion. Ken continued to be active and walked many miles in Pacific Spirit Park with Phyllis until he approached his 90th birthday. He was a member of the Y's men and found many friends through the 'Y' as they worked to establish Camp Howdy.

Ken joined George H. Hewitt Marking Device at the age of 14 as a delivery boy and retired as Superintendent of Plant at 66 yrs. From the time he married Phyllis at West Point Grey United Church in December of 1942, he felt the warmth and friendship of the AOTS, the Couples Club and latterly the Thursday Lunch Club. He also rediscovered his Welsh roots having married Phyllis and treasured his membership in the Vancouver Welsh Society. His talents as a carpenter and handy man were well put to use, not only at home, but also in support of the Cambrian Hall. Ken also loved animals especially the many Welsh Corgis who loved him over the years. He loved to travel; special destinations were California, Nova Scotia and the U.K. where he would share time with extended family and explore places of historical interest.

Ken has left a legacy of strength, loyalty, love, commitment and dignity. As a husband and father, he was simply 'the best'. To us all, Ken was a gentleman, kind and sweet, with a quiet and gentle manner but an inner strength that was amazing. We send our condolences to Ken's extended family, and especially to Phyllis, Lynn and Wilf, and his sister Agnes Wicks.

Emily Davies



She was born in Wales and passed away peacefully on December 23, 2009 at the age of 92. Emily was a Veteran of WWII serving with the Queen Alexandra Imperial military nursing service in Burma and India. She immigrated to Canada in 1952 working as a public health nurse until her retirement. She was a member of the Burma Star, St. John Ambulance, the Vancouver Council of Women and the Vancouver Business and Professional Women's Club. A long time member of the Vancouver Welsh Society, she served it in many capacities including President. She was a founding member of the Cambrian Circle Singers. Emily is survived by her sister Marian, nephews David and Trevor and nieces Susanne and Elizabeth.

Nerys Haqq writes:

News of Emily's death came as a surprise. Emily was a feisty, VERY independent lady. She lived life to the full as she was very much involved with various activities and she never stopped learning. While she didn't own a computer she used the one at her local library and took lessons in its use. With her bus pass she traveled all over the lower mainland and was reluctant to accept offers to have people go out of their way to pick her up.



Emily was the last original member of the choir in the choir. She helped the choir with translation and pronunciation of the Welsh pieces through the years. When her eyesight worsened she would memorize the pieces. She would travel by bus all over the lower mainland from New Westminster to White Rock with her gown - although not her cockle basket, and in some instances walk a fair distance from the bus stop to whatever home we were performing in. She was a member from 1980 to 2008 when her failing eyesight and health would no longer allow her to continue. Emily continued to live independently until a few days before her death when she had gone into hospital after a fall. No doubt her lack of eyesight would have forced her into a home soon, but fate decreed that it would not happen

and Emily remained independent to the end.

Hywel Teifi Edwards

One of Wales' most prominent cultural figures died in early January at age 75. Hywel Teifi Edwards was a powerful and influential voice in Welsh life and a great friend of Welsh exiles, including members of the Vancouver Welsh Society. He retired as Head of the Welsh Department at Swansea University in 1995.

A prominent Welsh nationalist and strong defender of the Welsh language, Professor Edwards was a regular voice on Welsh radio and television. An historian by profession and an authority on the literature of 19th century Wales. His book *Yr Eisteddfod 1176-1976* was published in 1976 as a celebration of 800 years of eisteddfodau. This was followed by his magnum opus *Gwyl Gwalia: Yr Eisteddfod Genedlaethol yn Oes aur Victoria 1858-1868* (The Eisteddfod in the Victorian golden Age).

Hywel Teifi Edwards was also a great admirer of the South Wales coalminer and a chronicler of life in the mining valleys. He edited 10 volumes of a series on the Welsh Valleys and also compiled an anthology entitled *Arwr Glew Erwau'r Glo* (Proud Heroes of the Coal Acres); a study of the image of the coalminer in prose and poetry between 1850 and 1950. The high regard in which he was held by Welsh writers was expressed in the 2008 Festschrift, *Cawr i'w Genedl* (A giant for his nation).

Reverend D. Ben Rees of Liverpool writes: "He displayed great eloquence, erudition and passion whether addressing rallies of the Welsh Language Society, delivering a lecture at the National Eisteddfod, comforting the

10,000 mourners at the funeral of rugby star Ray Gravelle in 2007, or at the National St. David's Parade in Cardiff."

Captain Ieuan Lampshire-Jones remembers Hywel Teifi Edwards and his family well. Both were born and raised in the small village of Aberarth on the Cardiganshire coast where their families were close neighbours who shared in the village's strong maritime tradition. Hywel Teifi Edwards' son is the popular television journalist and newsreader Huw Edwards, presenter of the UK's most watched news program, BBC News at Ten.

(Thanks to Ieuan and to Eifion Williams for supplying much of the material.)

ONTARIO WELSH FESTIVAL STRATFORD, ONTARIO

April 30-May 2, 2010

The Festival will be held in the Arden Park Hotel, in the beautiful community of Stratford, located on the romantic Avon River and home of Canada's famous Shakespearian Theatre .

It will feature all the favourite events that we have come to enjoy over the years including a traditional noson lawen on the Friday evening, children's activities on Saturday morning, poetry reading and a seminar on Saturday afternoon, the grand banquet on Saturday evening followed by one of the highlights of the weekend-a concert by the renowned Llangwm Welsh Male Voice Choir from North Wales, and to top it all, two glorious sessions of hymn singing on Sunday. How can you resist it! Make sure to mark it in your brand new 2010 calendars.

Info: www.ontariowelshfestival.ca or e-mail inquiries@ontariowelshfestival.ca or phone 613-725-2704



St. David's Day Celebrations
at the Cambrian Hall,
215 East 17th Avenue

February 27th: St. David's Day Banquet.

Doors open at 6 pm, Dinner at 7 pm.
Entertainment: Jonathan Quick, tenor

March 1st: St. David's Day.

Traditional celebration begins at 7:30 pm with Cawl
Cennin and the Eating of the Leek ceremony.

Happy St. David's Day
Dydd Gwyl Dewi dedwydd

www.WelshSociety.com

Phone: 604 876-2815



We, the Executive Committee are currently trying to find ways to increase the membership number of the Vancouver Welsh Society. As a member or past member of the Society could you please help us and fill in the questionnaire so that we can understand the needs of current members and possible future members?

1. Have you renewed your membership this year?

Yes

No

2. Please explain your reasons for not renewing your membership.

3. Activities organized by the social committee are not always well attended by members during the year. Do you find that you do not attend the activities offered because:

a. too many activities are organized

b. not advertised well enough

c. not interested in attending

d. any other reasons.....

.....

4. Do you have suggestions for other activities you would like to see available?

5. In the interest of membership demographics can you please place a cross in the box that represents your age group and please provide your postal code?

Under 30 yrs

30-60 yrs

over 60yrs

Postal Code